



JUNEAU VOTER

Summer 2013

League of Women Voters of Juneau
P.O. Box 22048 Juneau, Alaska 99802
<http://www.juneaulwv.org/>

Board of Directors' Report

Your Board has been busy this spring, meeting with City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) officials to ask how the League can better assist the CBJ. To date, we have met with CBJ City Manager, Kim Kiefer, Mayor Merrill Sanford, and Assembly Member Mary Becker. A repeated theme at these meetings was the concern that all had about the low voter turnout for municipal elections as well as the lack of candidates.

Kim suggested that the League work with a low-turnout precinct and develop a program to increase voter education and turnout.

Mayor Sanford reminded us that when the municipal election turnout is only 30%, this means that measures are passed and candidates are elected by only slightly more than 15% of eligible voters.

Mary Becker reported that more citizens need to apply for positions on the 19 advisory boards that assist the CBJ Assembly. She also mentioned the collaboration recently re-established with Haines and Skagway to work on issues of importance to northern Southeast.

The next Juneau League Board meeting will be held on July 20th, and Assembly Member Randy Wanamaker will be attending. All Juneau League members are invited to attend. Randy's visit will last from 10-11 am at the Catholic Community Service conference room, followed by the monthly Board business meeting. All of our meetings are open to the public and our members are always welcome.

We hope to see some of you there!

Join Our Juneau League Entry in the July 4th Parade!!

In an effort to promote the League's principles and encourage voting in the upcoming municipal election, members of the League of Women Voters of Juneau will once again be participating in Juneau's 4th of July parade. Dr. George Brown and Hetty Barthel will be marching with the League banner and would appreciate your giving them some relief during the route. Marianne Mills will be driving her Miata and would enjoy your company as a passenger.

We plan to hand out cards outlining the dates for the fall's municipal election, including deadlines for candidate filing and registering to vote. But we need volunteers to march with us to do this. So if you or your family members are interested in this fun but valuable project, please join us near the Dept. of Labor Building by the Douglas Bridge at 10:00 am on the 4th. Feel free to join us along the route too!



Here is Hetty, George, and the Miata in the 2012 Fourth of July Parade. Join us for the 2013 festivities!



Updating the Juneau League's Position on CBJ Advisory Committees

Many of the League of Women Voters Juneau positions have not been updated in several years and may be out of date. One of the League's goals this year is to update its position on Advisory Committees, which was effective November 1984 and has been reaffirmed each annual meeting. Is it still relevant? Can it be effectively used to advocate for improvements to the City and Borough of Juneau's advisory committees' process? There are several types of advisory committees, i.e. Advisory Boards (19), Appeal Boards (6), Boards Established by Charter (6 Enterprise & Special Boards) and Ad Hoc Committees/Task Forces and Boards Appointed by Others (5). There is a wealth of information at the CBJ Clerk's web site at www.juneau.org/clerk/boards.

Over the past six months, the study committee of Ruth Danner, Margo Waring and Cheryl Jebe have reviewed the current position, sought input from the City and Borough Clerk, Laurie Sica, and discussed language changes. The committee asked the Juneau League Board of Directors to review its work to date and consider draft recommended changes to the November 1984 position and possible further study parameters, if necessary. After review of the current position and discussion of the proposed changes, the Board agreed the position is still relevant and tweaked the new draft language.

The Board decided to put out the following draft for member review and comments. It is possible the Board may adopt this draft as the updated position at its July 20, 2013 Board meeting. As always, all members are invited to attend this Board meeting. Also, **if you have any recommended changes to the updated position printed in this Juneau Voter newsletter, please feel free to e-mail them to Cheryl_Jebe@msn.com or mariannemills@msn.com by July 15, 2013. You may also call 723-0226 with questions or suggestions. Thank you.**

DRAFT

June 15, 2013

Update to Position: Advisory Committees [*November 1984*]

**Brackets and words italicized are deletions;
CAPITALIZED WORDS ARE NEW WORDING.**

The Juneau League of Women Voters supports the use of advisory committees by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). We believe that citizen committees can provide a valuable means of participation in government. In order for these committees to be effective, the resolution establishing the committee should clearly state the mission and scope of activities. **THESE MISSIONS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CBJ WEBSITE.**

"ADVISORY COMMITTEE" IS DEFINED AS A COMMITTEE, BOARD, COMMISSION OR TASK FORCE OF CITIZENS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC COMMUNITY ISSUES OR NEEDS AND WHICH CONTAINS NO CBJ ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AS VOTING MEMBERS.

Advisory committees should serve as channels for public opinion on specific, detailed issues related to the work of the Assembly. Therefore, each committee should be related to a specific subcommittee of the Assembly or the Assembly as a whole, and should report to *[it]* THE ASSEMBLY on a regular basis, **BUT AT LEAST ANNUALLY AND IN WRITING AND THE**

REPORT(S) PUBLISHED ON THE COMMITTEE'S WEBPAGE. [*The frequency of this reporting will vary with the mission of the committee; semi-annual reporting would be an acceptable minimum.*] COMMITTEES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION TO THE ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON ISSUES FELT TO REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION.

In addition to reporting to its guiding Assembly subcommittee, the activities of each committee should be reviewed annually by the entire Assembly. At that time, the committee should be given further guidance by the Assembly, or should be suspended, or dissolved, as the need warrants.

Committee membership should be balanced to represent the interests which will be served by its activities. In some cases, a balance between technical expertise and affected user groups should be emphasized. In other cases, a balance of age, sex, race or other factors would be more important.

When filling vacancies on a committee, the Assembly should publicly advertise the opening. A standardized application form should be used to determine the applicant's reasons for wishing to serve on the board and qualifications that would contribute to the committee's mission and balanced composition.

While appointing members with conflicts of interest arising from the work of the committee is not desirable, excluding individuals who have occasional conflicts may not be practical without limiting the technical expertise required by some committees. All members of advisory committees should receive an initial IN PERSON OR WEB BASED orientation IN ADDITION TO THE CBJ'S ON-LINE MANUAL AT [HTTP://WWW.JUNEAU.ORG/CLERK/BOARDS/DOCUMENTS/2011-05-25_BOARD_INFO_PAMPHLET-VERSION_2011-02.PDF](http://www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/documents/2011-05-25_BOARD_INFO_PAMPHLET-VERSION_2011-02.pdf) (OR ITS REVISED EDITION) that includes recognizing and handling conflicts of interest according to the Charter of the City and Borough.

In keeping with principles of citizen participation in government, all meetings of advisory committees should be open to the public. Meetings should be held on a regular, scheduled basis, with published agenda and adequate public notice of the time and place of meeting. PUBLIC TESTIMONY TIME SHOULD BE AVAILABE AT EACH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE. A WRITTEN RECORD OF EACH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO SUMMARIZE THE MEETING AND ANY DECISIONS MADE SHOULD BE TAKEN. This written record should be filed in the City Clerk's office PROMPTLY following each meeting and should be available to the public, AND INCLUDED ON THE CBJ WEBSITE. [*Formal public testimony need not be taken at all meetings of the committee, but should occur frequently. Some written record of each meeting of the committee should be made. Formal minutes are not always necessary. A summary report of the meeting and the decisions made could be an adequate substitute.*]

Support services should be provided to facilitate the work of the boards and to provide continuity in their activities. Each committee should be assigned a staff person to help coordinate its activities and to provide access to clerical support.

Standard by-laws should be provided to each committee at its inception. These by-laws could be modified and adopted by the committee to meet its own particular needs. THE CBJ STANDARD BY-LAWS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JUNEAU.ORG/CLERK/RESOLUTIONS/RES2246.PDF](http://www.juneau.org/clerk/resolutions/res2246.pdf).

A central file should be maintained in the office of the City Clerk containing individual files on each of the boards and committees including the following materials: the resolution or ordinance creating the committee, the by-laws adopted by the committee, the current and historic membership of the committee, and all AGENDAS, MINUTES AND reports filed by the committee. All these materials should be available to interested citizens on request AND ON THE CBJ WEBSITE.

UPDATED AND READOPTED JULY XX, 2013

Past President's Notes

It is important to communicate with our elected officials about both our concerns and our support. For example, I recently wrote via email to Senator Murkowski, the first time to mention the Paycheck Fairness Act which seemed to be languishing in Congress and the second time to support her editorial on same-sex marriage in the June 19th *Empire*. I don't always agree with our Senators, but it has recently occurred to me that I should let them know when I do.

It is easy to send a quick email, well thought out and concise: www.senate.org or www.house.org will connect you. If you want to read national legislation, see www.thomas.org.

Proposed Alaska legislation can be read at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/> And if it is CBJ information that you seek, check out the excellent city clerk's homepage: <http://www.juneau.org/clerk/index.php>

Don't forget to let your voices be heard!
Judy Andree, Past President

Book Group Report

The next meeting of our non-fiction book club will be Thursday, July 25 at 5:00 p.m. at the Downtown Library.

The book schedule is now:

July: **Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power.** Rachel Maddow (2012, Paper, \$10)

August: **Thinking Fast and Slow.** Daniel Kahneman (2011, Paper, \$12)

September: **Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.** Katherine Boo. (2012. Paper, large print, about \$16)

I'm collecting recommendations for the fall reading/discussion list. Email yours to me including title, author, date of publication, availability in paper, and a paragraph of review from Amazon or other review source.

Thanks. Vivian at vkhegg@gci.net

The Juneau League would like to thank Vivian for her dedication to the Book Group!

The Juneau League would also like to thank those three members who served on the Study Committee to review and update our Advisory Committee position: Margo Waring, Cheryl Jebe, and Ruth Danner!

LWVJUNEAU - OPTION 2



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALASKA

left chest imprint // 1-color // 3.8" wide



Have you purchased your Alaska LWV T-shirt yet? The Juneau League still has a few of those wonderful blue long-sleeved T-shirts in the following sizes: L, XL, 2XL. Cost? \$15. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Judy at (907) 780-6767 or jagster42@gmail.com.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEAGUE?

LWVJ Opportunities for Members

Some of our members have recently expressed the desire to get more involved. Following are a list of projects Juneau League Members can work on. Training is available. If you'd like to get more involved, please check the area(s) below and mail in or send a message to MarianneMills@msn.com who is collecting the information in a database for our use. Thanks!

**I am interested in getting involved with the following activities:
(check as many as apply)**

Voter Registration and Voting

- Register voters at UAS, high schools, health fairs, naturalization ceremonies
- Assist homebound persons with voting on election day
- Develop schedule of elections and registration deadlines for distribution

Juneau Empire Voter's Guide

- Serve on team to meet with Empire staff
- Serve on committee to develop questions
- Mail letters and questions to candidates

Municipal Candidates Forum

- Serve as moderator
- Serve as timekeeper
- Collect and sort questions from audience

Take Action on Local Issues of Concern

- Draft letters/letters to the Editor for Board review
- Meet with other members to strategize actions members can take
- Testify before the Assembly or one of its committees

Take Action on State Issues of Concern

- Draft letters/letters to the Editor for Board review
- Meet with other members to strategize actions members can take
- Testify before a Legislative Committee

Develop Social Media to Promote League and Voting

- Set up and monitor a Juneau League Facebook page
- Assist Board to promote voter participation through Facebook
- Recommend other types of social media to promote League principles

Help with League Newsletter

- Interview New Members to introduce them through the newsletter
- Take photos for the newsletter
- Handle lay-out of the newsletter
- Mail out the newsletter (primarily via email)

Fourth of July Parade

- Walk in the Parade with the Juneau League
- Design citizen handouts to distribute on the parade route
- Get the word out to members and friends to join us

Help Facilitate Non-Fiction Book Club

- Reserve the library room for meetings and send out monthly email reminders
- Recommend books and in some months guide the discussion
- Take meeting notes and write one paragraph summary of discussion for newsletter

Study Committee on CBJ Boards

- Meet with a small group for discussions of the issues
- Develop questions for members or experts to study all sides of the issues
- Report to the Board on involvement of members and/or the public

Study Committee on Water/Wastewater

- Meet with a small group for discussions of the issues
- Develop questions for members or experts to study all sides of the issues
- Report to the Board on involvement of members and/or the public

Assist with Secretarial duties

- Take minutes at the monthly Board meetings
- Write thank you notes to our guest speakers
- Submit notice of meetings to the Juneau Empire and radio stations

Learn how to be Membership Director

- Assist Membership Director with sending dues renewal notices
- Assist with sending out "Welcome Packets" to new members
- Learn about submitting membership data for the LWVAK and LWVUS rosters

Learn how to be Treasurer

- Assist Treasurer in developing monthly financial reports
- Learn about Per Member Payment to the State and National Leagues
- Learn about the process for developing the annual budget

Learn how to be President

- Assist with developing monthly meeting agendas
- Learn how to facilitate meetings, including the process for motions
- Learn about connections and resource to the State and National Leagues

Other areas of interest? Please list below:

Thank you for your interest and ideas!